

**REMARKS**

**STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1-35 are pending.

Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness.

Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ouchi (US Patent No. 6,553,407) in view of Visser (US Patent No. 5,809,446). Page 3 of the Office Action.

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ouchi. Page 4 of the Office Action.

The Examiner requires formal drawings.

The Examiner objects to the Title of the Invention for not being descriptive.

**TITLE OF INVENTION**

The title of the invention is replaced taking into consideration the Examiner's comments, as follows: ~~--INFORMATION DISPLAY METHOD AND SYSTEM AND RECORDING MEDIUM~~  
DISPLAYING FRESHNESS OF OBJECT CONDITION INFORMATION --

Withdrawal of the objection to the title of the invention is requested.

**DRAWINGS**

Formalized drawings for FIGS. 1-18 (14 replacement sheets) are submitted as attached hereto.

**35 USC 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, REJECTIONS**

Regarding the 35 USC 112, second paragraph, rejections of claims 1-35, the Examiner appears to assert that the claim elements are not tied together, such the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> elements of claim 1, "storing a reference time for determining a freshness of the condition information." In particular, the Examiner asserts that there is no relationship between the reference time and the condition information. See, page 2 of the Action.

However, contrary to the Examiner's indefinites assertion, claim 1 recites,

a freshness determination unit determining the freshness of the condition information based on the elapsed time from said reference time; and

a display controlling unit determining depending on the freshness of the condition information a display mode of the condition information, wherein the display unit displays the display mode of the condition information and a user can observe at a glance the freshness of the condition information.

Therefore claim 1 recites, "determining the freshness of the condition information based on an elapsed time from said reference time," which contrary to the Examiner's assertion clearly recites how the reference time is used to determine freshness of received condition information (i.e., "based upon an elapsed time from said reference time"). Also, independent claims 3, 31, 32, and 33 are not indefinite. Claim 21 is amended accordingly for clarity. Therefore, withdrawal of the 35 USC 112 indefiniteness rejections of claims 1, 3, 21, 31, 32 and 33 is respectfully requested.

Further, the indefiniteness rejection of independent claims 8 and 22 appear to be misplaced, because, claim 8 recites, "changing the display mode of the condition information depending on a passage of time as freshness information," and claim 22 recites, "determining depending on the freshness of the condition information a display mode of the condition information, wherein the display unit displays the display mode of the condition information" (emphasis added). Therefore, withdrawal of the 35 USC 112 indefiniteness rejections of claims 8 and 22 is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 14 and 34 are amended to improve form only and the amendments are not narrowing claim amendments for overcoming the relied upon prior art in the Office Action. For example, claim 14 recites, "determining display mode changing information controlling a display mode of the received condition information." Dependent claim 15 is amended to be consistent with amended claim 14. Withdrawal of the 35 USC 112 indefiniteness rejections of claims 14 and 34 is respectfully requested.

Further, dependent claims 2 and 4 are amended to improve form only and the amendments are not narrowing claim amendments for overcoming the relied upon prior art in the Office Action. Support for claims 2 and 4, and the amendments to these claims, can be found, for example, in FIG. 8, operation 16, and page 12, line 25 to page 15, line 13.

Further, regarding dependent claim 5, the recitation "wherein line widths of figure data corresponding to the display mode of the condition information are thick upon update of the

condition information and line widths of the figure data are thinner as the freshness level deteriorates,” is clear, because a display mode of the displayed happy face as figure data shown in FIG. 5 can specify using thick or bold lines to display the happy face for most fresh and thin lines to display the happy face for least fresh.

### **35 USC 102 and 103 REJECTIONS**

Claims 1, 3, 8, 14, 21, 22, 31, 32, 33, and 34 are independent.

Independent claims 1, 3, 14, 21, 32, 33, and 34 are amended to clarify the patentably distinguishing features of the present invention and the claim amendments are not narrowing claim amendments for overcoming the relied upon prior art in the Office Action.

#### **Ouchi & Visser**

Claims 1-31 and 33-35 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ouchi and Visser.

The Applicants assert that the claimed idea of the present invention is associating a display mode with freshness of information, or visually informing a user of a freshness level of the information accessed by the user. For example, a display mode of a displayed happy face shown in FIG. 5 can specify a large size display of the happy face for most fresh and a small size display of the happy face for least fresh (see, also FIG. 18 using dark colors to lighter colors as a display mode indicating most fresh to least fresh).

In particular, the claimed invention generally relates to monitoring and displaying the reliability of information with the passage of time. In particular, by paying attention to the fact that the uncertainty of information which changes from time to time increases as time passes from a time the information was generated, the present invention determines a reference time for determining freshness (or timeliness) of the relevant information, calculates, at a time of making reference to the relevant information, the difference between a display time and the reference time, determines freshness of the information based on such calculated difference and displays the freshness information by changing a display mode depending on the determined freshness. See, page 5, lines 10-18 of the present Application.

Ouchi discloses a workflow system. In page 3 of the Action, the Examiner appears to assert that the workflow system may include information regarding condition of a user, such as the user's vacation schedule (column 19, line 29 and column 20, line 11).

The Examiner admits that Ouchi does not disclose the claim 1 recitation, “determining

the freshness of the condition information based on an elapsed time from said reference time.” However, the Examiner asserts that freshness of anything is dependent upon time elapsed and therefore well known. Further, the Examiner appears to rely on Visser to assert that displaying the freshness is also well known. Visser relates to an instrument for measuring fuel injection time and displays a time difference between first and second edges of an injection signal (column 4, lines 16-57 and FIG. 7).

Therefore, the claimed idea of the present invention is associating a display mode with freshness of information, or visually informing a user of a freshness level of the information accessed by the user. For example, claim 1 recites, “determining depending on the freshness of the condition information a display mode of the condition information.” For example, FIGS. 5 and 9 of the present Application, illustrate such an association of a display mode with freshness of information. In FIG. 9 of the present Application, in column F4 of the table, the smallest face indicates a least fresh mood state (i.e., the user was in a happy mood a long time ago).

Therefore, the Examiner’s well known assertions are traversed as follows:

(1) The Examiner acknowledges that Ouchi does not disclose the claimed recitation, “determining the freshness of the condition information based on an elapsed time from said reference time.” Further, Ouchi does not disclose the claim 1 recitation, “determining depending on the freshness ... a display mode of the condition information.” The Applicants also assert that Ouchi does not suggest these claimed features, because Ouchi relates to a workflow system and is not concerned with tracking freshness of available information, thereby undermining the Examiner’s well known assertion. If Ouchi is silent on freshness determination and displaying the freshness according to a display mode, Ouchi cannot support the Examiner’s well known assertion.

(2) Further, Visser discloses displaying the fuel injection time in a format useful for the application, such as displaying the fuel injection time numerically and graphically. However, Visser does not contemplate and is completely silent on the idea of visually informing the user of a freshness level of the determined fuel injection time.

(3) Further, regarding the Examiner’s well known assertion, the Applicants respectfully request documentary evidence of such alleged well known allegation in compliance with the USPTO’s February 21, 2002 Memorandum on Relying on Facts Which are Not of Record as Common Knowledge or for Taking Official Notice (copy attached).

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 32

Regarding claim 32, the Examiner rejects this claim as being anticipated by Ouchi and relies on MPEP 2114 (functional language). Claim 32 is amended to improve form. Ouchi does not recite, "showing a display mode of user condition information and timeliness of the user condition information depending on passage of time." The Examiner already admits on page 3 of the Action, that Ouchi does not disclose the recitation, "timeliness of the user condition information depending on passage of time." Therefore, Ouchi does not anticipate claim 32, and this rejection not appropriate.

CLAIMED INVENTION

In summary, in contrast to the relied upon references, the present invention, using the recitation of claim 1 as an example, provides:

... determining the freshness of the condition information based on the elapsed time from said reference time; and

... determining depending on the freshness of the condition information a display mode of the condition information, wherein the display unit displays the display mode of the condition information and a user can observe at a glance the freshness of the condition information (emphasis added).


In view of the amendments and the remarks, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-35 and allowance of claims 1-35 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,  
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